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to any one who wishes to find the old familiar cases, and new ones also, discussed in a lively way. Thus no one would wish to miss the searching discussion of a servant's "authority" to commit wrongs (Chapter V), or of the ambiguous expression "scope of employment" (Chapter VII), or of the ethical justifications for *respondeat superior* (Chapter VIII).

EUGENE WAMBAUGH.

YEAR BOOKS OF EDWARD II. Volume XI, 5 Edward II (1311-12). Edited by William Craddock Bolland, being the volume for the year 1915 of the publications of the Selden Society. London: Bernard Quaritch. 1915. pp. xlix, 257.

In this volume Mr. Bolland has a less picturesque subject matter than in his "Eyre of Kent"; the cases are mostly real actions, the learning is obsolete, the facts undramatic. What does it interest us, whether by essoining himself the lord estopped himself from claiming a villain, or whether the King or the Archbishop of Dublin could present to a Deanery, or whether the Abbot of Holland could have his writ of mesne? We cannot get as excited as Beresford, C. J., about a point of pleading on a writ of replevin of cattle. Mr. Bolland himself appears to regard this as a rather uninteresting volume; his introduction is not in his best vein. There is nothing about it to make us forget that our own time will be past before the Selden Society gets through with Edward II; and of Richard II but one year has been printed. (And the reviewer for one is grateful for this publication, maugre its faults; life is evidently too short to wait for perfection, and get so little.) Should not the Selden Society take note of the fact that the noble historic impulse which led to the formation of the society is in danger of death from inanition? Give us more such noble volumes, such fruitful discussions, cases so full of life as those the society gave us in its earlier years, and we may hope for a new birth of historical scholarship in the younger men. Starve us on vapidity, or on driblets, and we shall all join the social justiciaries.

But there is no need of despair over this volume. Read aright, it is the Epic of Beresford. That lusty conservative fills each page with some expression of his vigorous mind. "At what time," he asks, "was the view granted in a writ of intrusion? In the time of the Antichrist? . . . This is a new writ, and a truly wonderful writ," he observes. "Never will I uphold this writ." An agreement drawn by a soldier is brought before him. "Men-at-arms are clever hands," he allows, "at making a mess of work of this sort." He is alive to his duty as professor of law, teaching the apprentices in the Crib. "One thing I tell you for the learning of the young men that be about us," — and he bettered his promise by telling two things. He could make a pun or a jest barely verging on the delicate; he could illustrate a point by an anecdote of Roger de Heugham and the unjust judges; he could make over a statute to correspond with the unexpressed intention of the legislator.

If all the unpublished Year Books were published we might not be vastly enlightened legally; but we should be wondrous wise as to the life of the English people, and we should know pretty well a number of strong, racy personalities who sat on the bench and molded our law for us. They would be worth knowing.

J. H. BEALE.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF NEUTRALS. By Daniel Chauncey Brewer. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1916. pp. ix, 1-248.

This small volume consists largely of papers prepared for the Army and Navy Journal since the outbreak of the present war. It is not, therefore, to

be expected that the book should be in substance or form a legal treatise. References to decided cases and other authorities are few in number.

In so far, however, as the avowed purpose of the book is to draw attention to issues which might involve the nation in war, it well serves that purpose, for it discusses many subjects of great importance, involving the relations of belligerents and neutrals, such as the sinking of merchant ships, blockade in the sense which it bore before the present war and in the sense in which it is now being often employed, belligerent use of neutral flag, and the plotting of belligerent agents in neutral territory. All these are discussed in an interesting manner.

While the author insists that for the good of the world it is desirable and necessary that neutral rights should be defined and enforced, he is persuaded that that result can never be accomplished unless neutral nations are prepared to assert their rights and to enforce the assertion to the extent of joining in battle in vindication of the principles to which they are committed (p. 248). But though a champion of neutral rights, he is not a mere partisan, for he says the neutral must acquire the habit of putting itself in the place of the nation at war and seek to understand the difficulties it is trying to overcome — its motives — and the arguments by which it has convinced itself of the propriety of its action (p. 69).

The statement (p. 222) that Sir Walter Scott decided *The Boedes Lust*, 5 C. Rob. 245, is probably to be ascribed to the compositor.

JENS I. WESTENGARD.

THE SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES IN MASSACHUSETTS. By Guy Newhall. Boston: G. A. Jackson. 1915. pp. xxxi, 339.

The main part of this admirable little book deals with the powers and duties of executors and administrators in Massachusetts. We know of no clearer short account of these matters than is here given. A lawyer or layman who wishes to put an estate through the Massachusetts probate court will be helped at every step by this simple yet thorough guide. No attempt is made to cite more than the principal cases, but all the statutory references are given. Yet the book is not like many other manuals dealing with a particular jurisdiction, — a mere stringing together of paraphrased statutory sections. The problem that the deceased's representative must meet is stated, the way out explained, illustrations put to give life to the abstract principle, and finally the statutory reference cited. The latter part of the book deals very briefly with the making and revocation of wills, the duties of trustees, guardians, and conservators, and the settlement of estates of absentees. Every probate practitioner in the state will have use for Mr. Newhall's book. And the student of testamentary law in any part of the country will be helped by this short practical statement of the modern law of decedents' estates in one of the leading jurisdictions.

THE GROTIUS SOCIETY. PROBLEMS OF THE WAR. Volume 1, pp. 104. London: Sweet & Maxwell. 1916.

This volume contains a series of papers read before the Grotius Society, a society formed since the war to discuss questions of international law. The papers, intended as they are merely to promote discussion, are not exhaustive. They are interesting in suggesting some of the difficult problems developed in the present war. Considerable impartiality is shown. For instance, Sir Graham Bower condemns the treatment of the imprisoned submarine officers and